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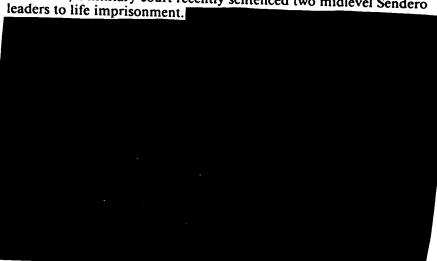
Fujimori Riding Higher

The capture of Sendero Luminoso leader Guzman has increased President Fujimori's popularity and his ability to manipulate the constituent Congress and the judiciary.

Fujimori's public approval rating, which jumped from 56 percent to 73 percent after Guzman's arrest, has enhanced his authority and muted criticism of his efforts to reconfigure Peru's political institutions.

Fujimori continues to use his decree power to reform the ineffective judicial system. He has transferred much of the power of the civilian courts in terrorism cases to the military justice system and has invoked the need to respect the "popular will" in sentencing terrorists.

Fujimori has promised Guzman a fair trial and a harsh sentence that will be handed down by 7 October; a military court recently sentenced two midlevel Sendero leaders to life imprisonment.



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